

**MARVEL**  
**COMICS**



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# DAREDEVIL<sup>®</sup>

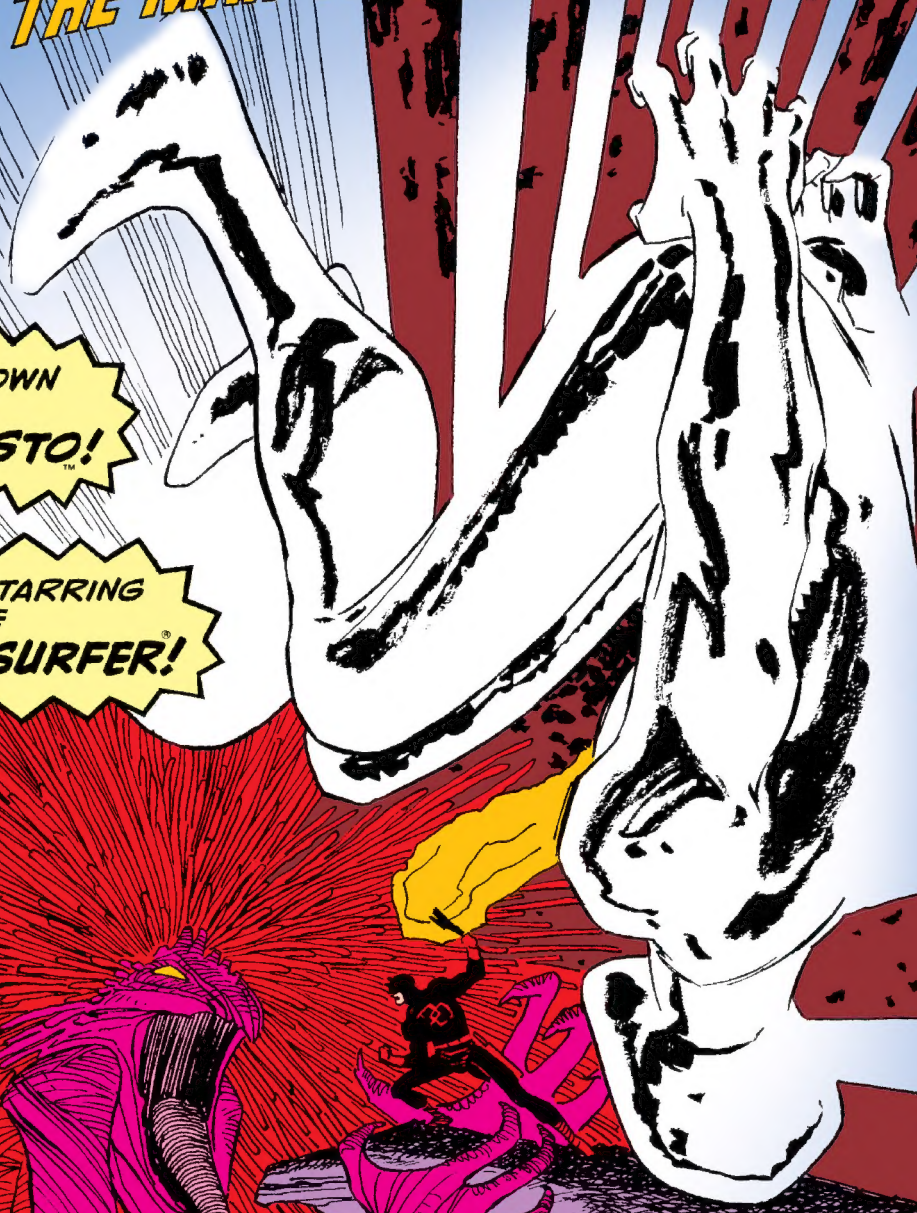
*THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!*

**\$1.00 US**  
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**282**  
**JULY**  
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APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

**SHOWDOWN  
WITH  
MEPHISTO!**

**GUEST-STARRING  
THE  
SILVER SURFER!**



JRJR  
& AW



THE GREEK "HADES," THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN "HELL," THE DEVILS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT FIRE-AND-BRIMSTONE PITS, THE NORSE "HEL"--- THE IDEA OF AN AFTERLIFE OF ETERNAL PUNISHMENT HAS BEEN USED TO CONTROL MAN FOR CENTURIES.

PERHAPS ONLY A **BLINDMAN** SUCH AS I DARES WALK THROUGH SUCH A PLACE.

MY SUPER-SENSES SHOW ME THIS VERSION OF AN UNDERWORLD TO REFLECT THE MIND OF **MEPHISTO**-- A BASE, DEHUMANIZED REALM WHERE THE MANY WORSHIP THE ONE.

I WILL NOT FIGHT THESE CURSED SOULS. NOR WILL I BE WORSHIPPED BY THEM. AND THAT IS WHY YOU MUST LET ME AND MY FRIENDS OUT OF HERE, **MEPHISTO**.

YOU TESTED ME IN YOUR REALM, ON YOUR TURF AND I WON.

YOUR UNDERWORLD IS IMPOTENT.

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

# CROOKED HALOS

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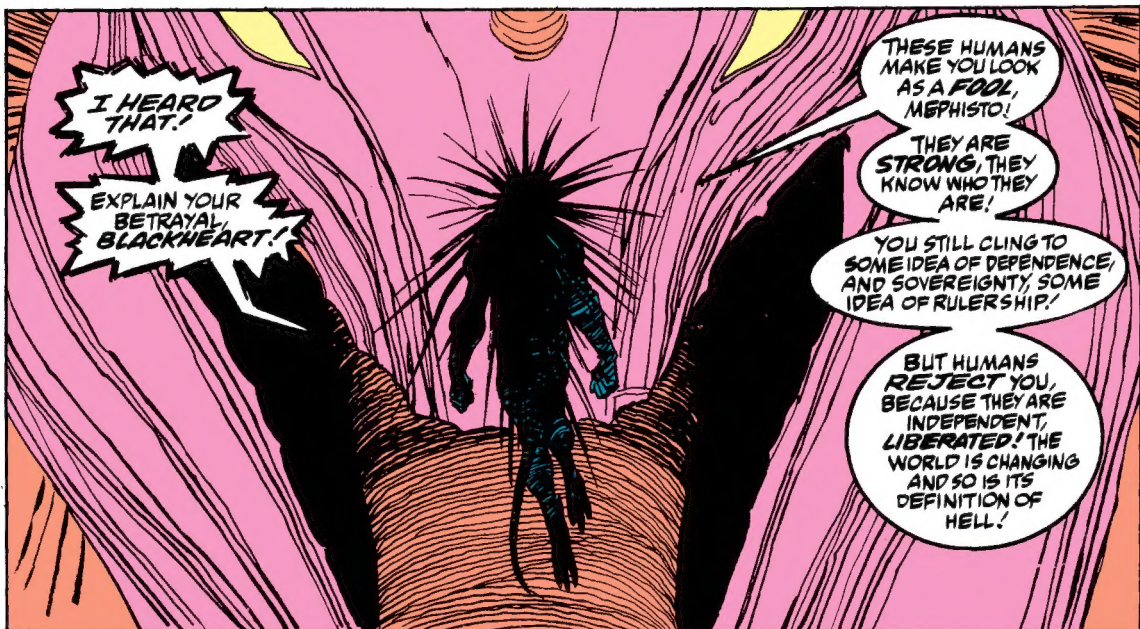
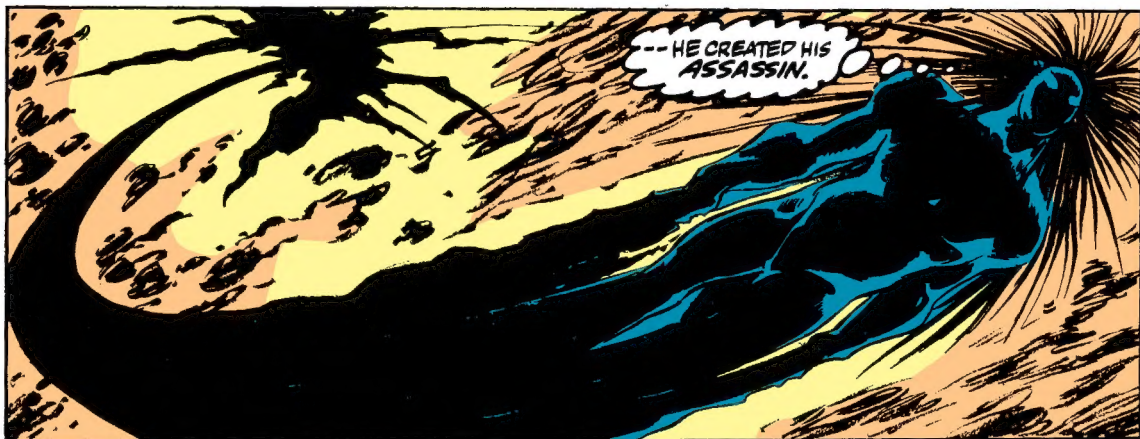
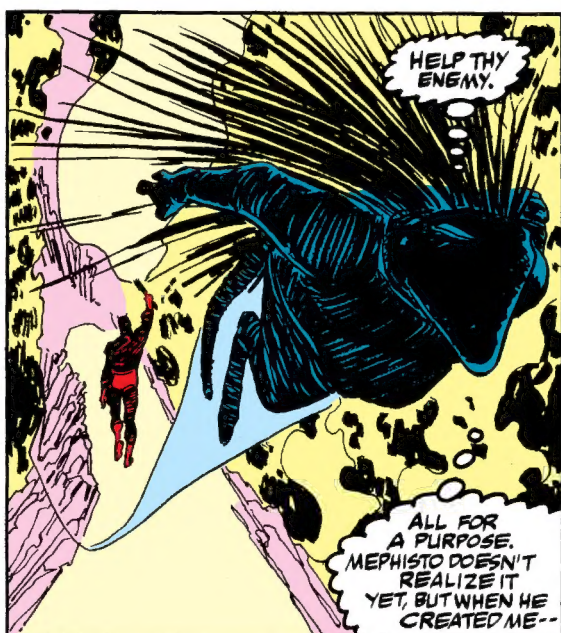
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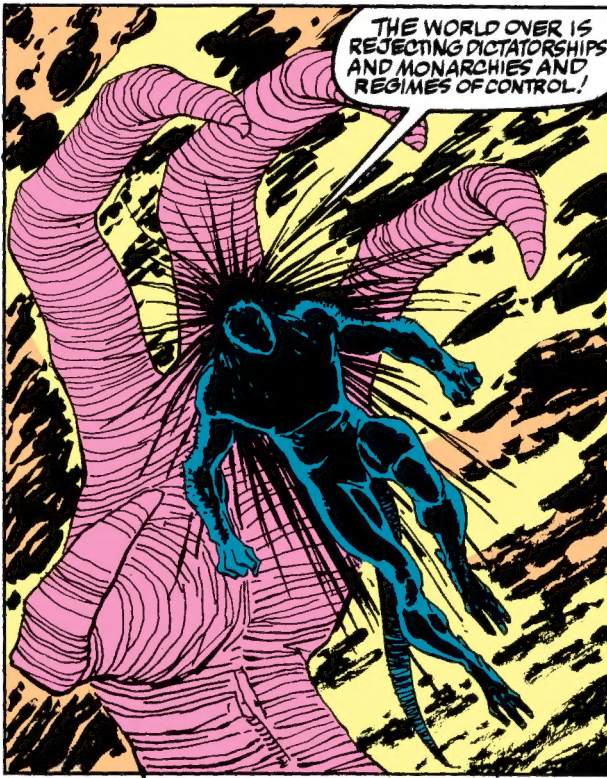
RALPH MACCHIO  
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TOM DeFALCO  
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THE WORLD OVER IS  
REJECTING DICTATORSHIPS  
AND MONARCHIES AND  
REGIMES OF CONTROL!

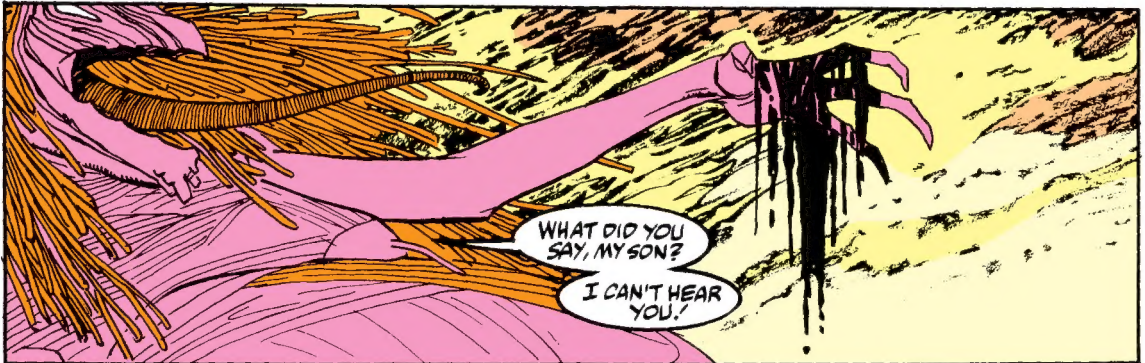
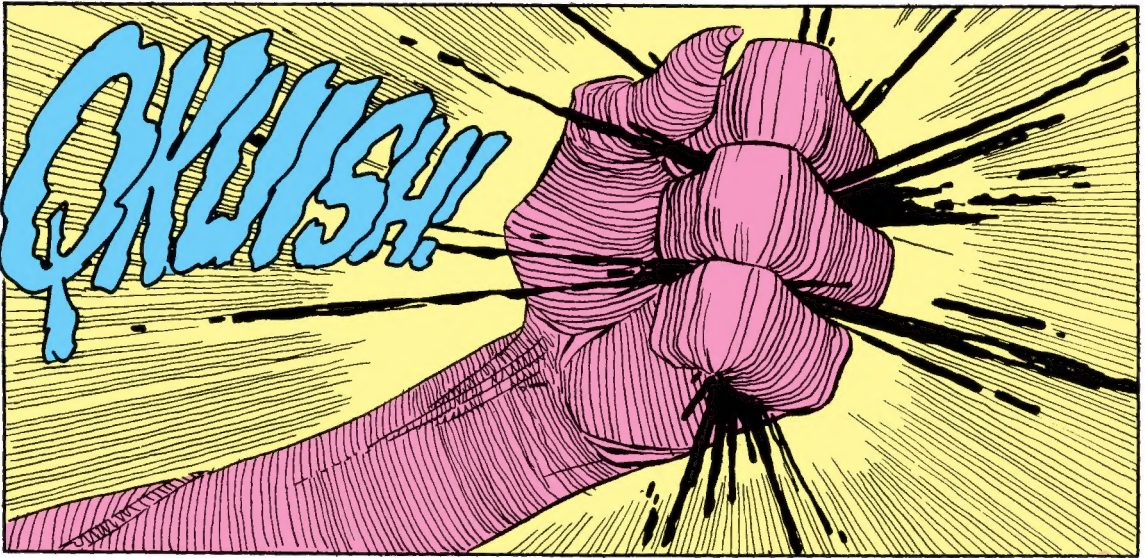


YET YOU PERSIST IN YOUR  
AUTHORITARIAN RULE AND  
GAME-PLAYING!

YOU'RE OLD  
AND TIRED AND  
ARCHAIC,  
MEPHISTO!

A DINOSAUR!

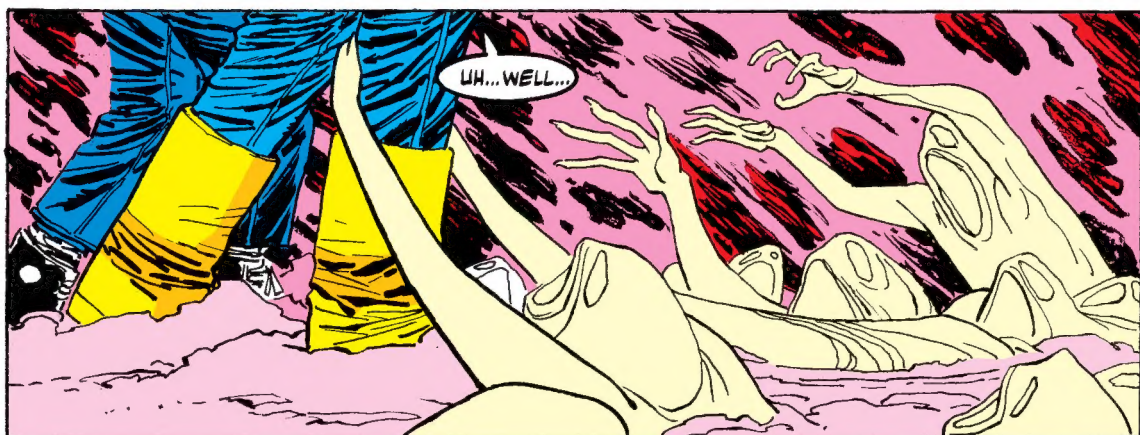
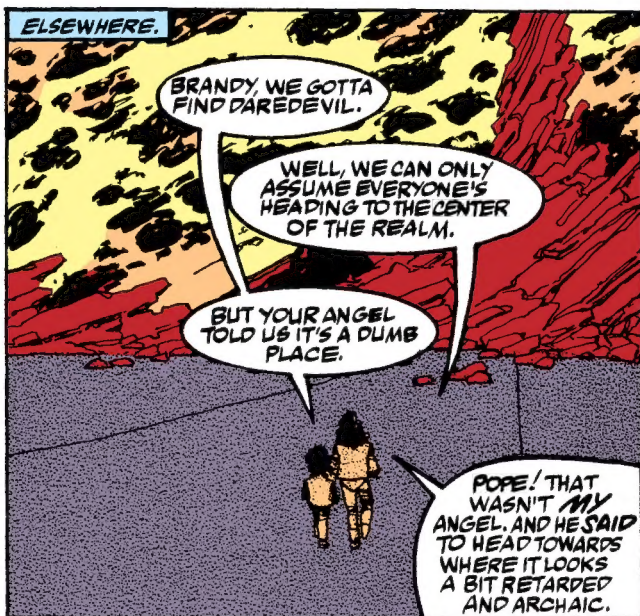
MAKE WAY FOR THE  
NEW ORDER--



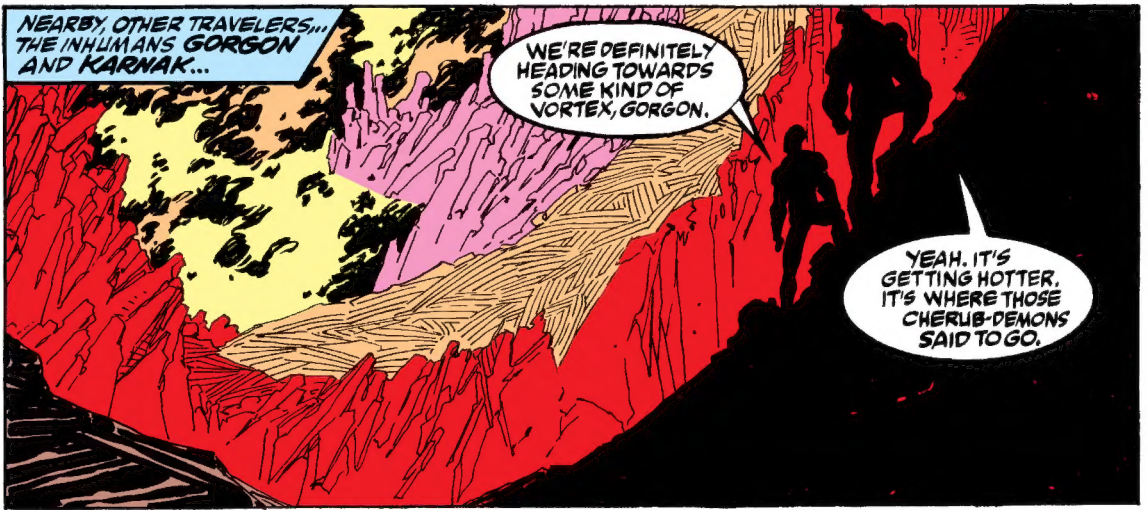
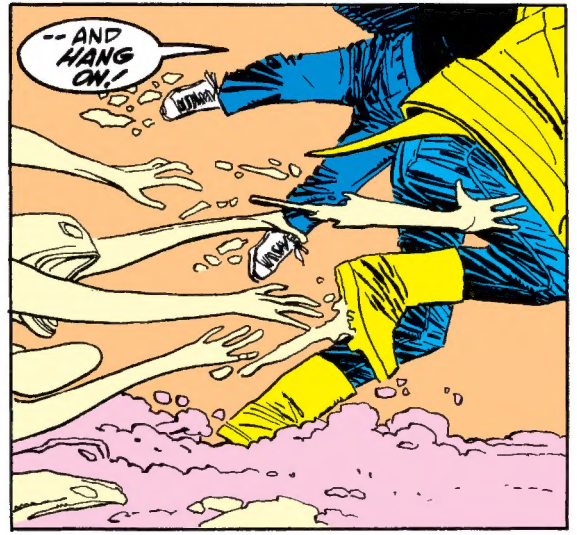
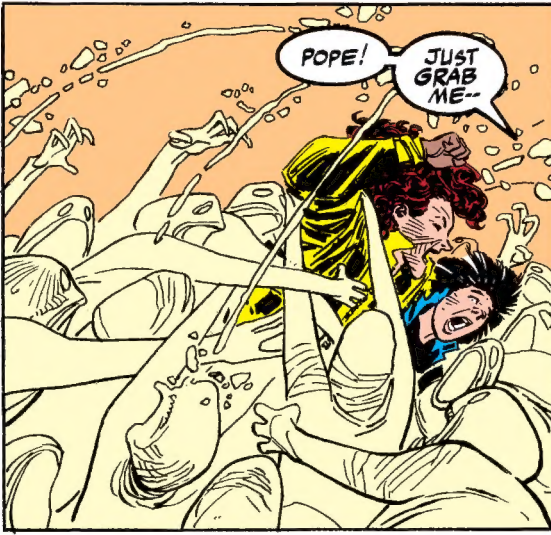
WHAT DID YOU  
SAY, MY SON?

I CAN'T HEAR  
YOU!

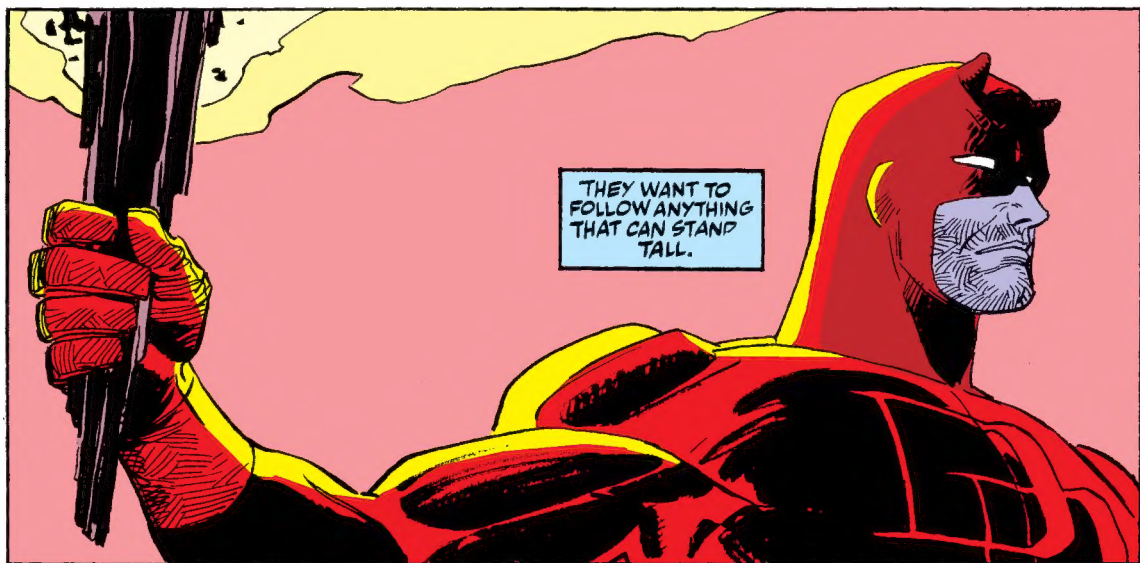
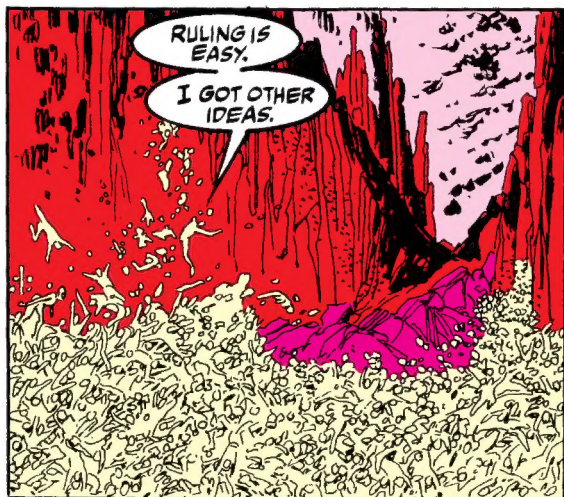
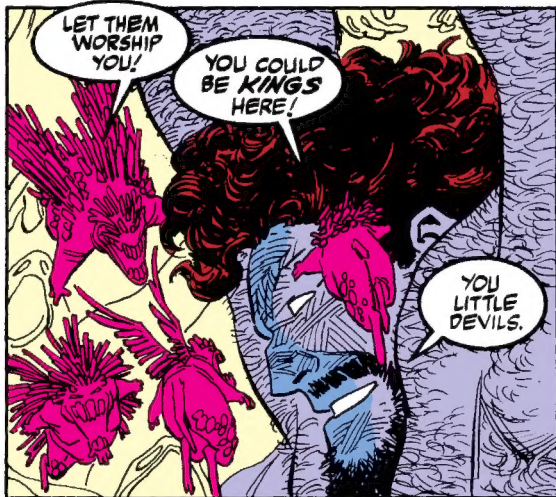




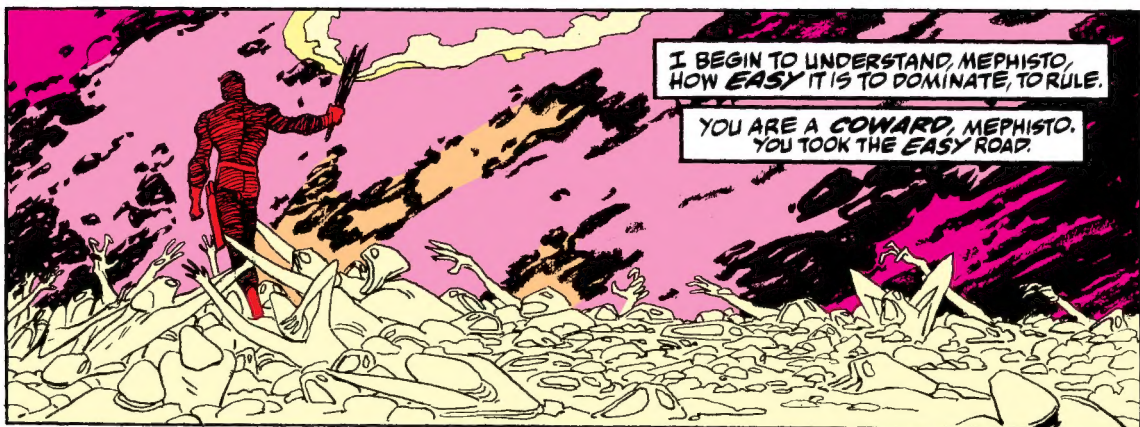






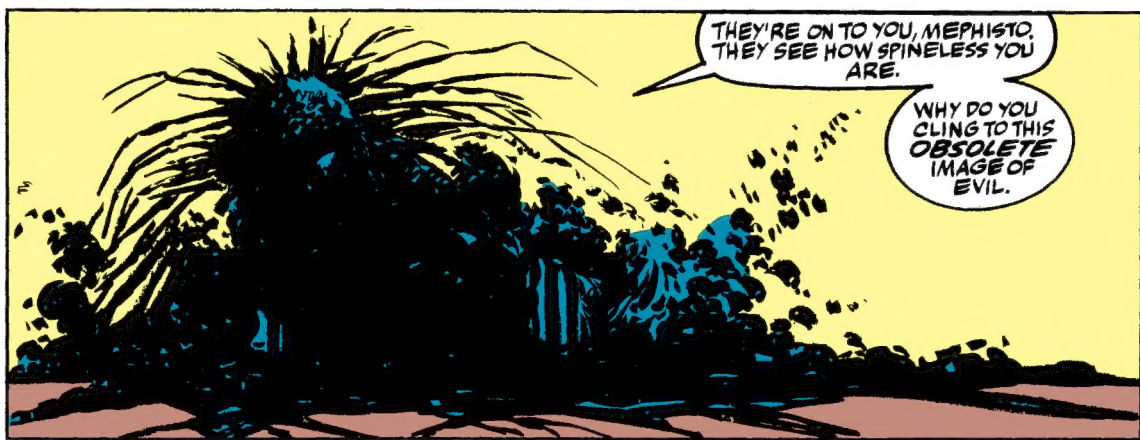






I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND, MEPHISTO,  
HOW **EASY** IT IS TO DOMINATE, TO RULE.

YOU ARE A **COWARD**, MEPHISTO.  
YOU TOOK THE **EASY ROAD**.



THEY'RE ON TO YOU, MEPHISTO.  
THEY SEE HOW **SPINELESS** YOU  
ARE.

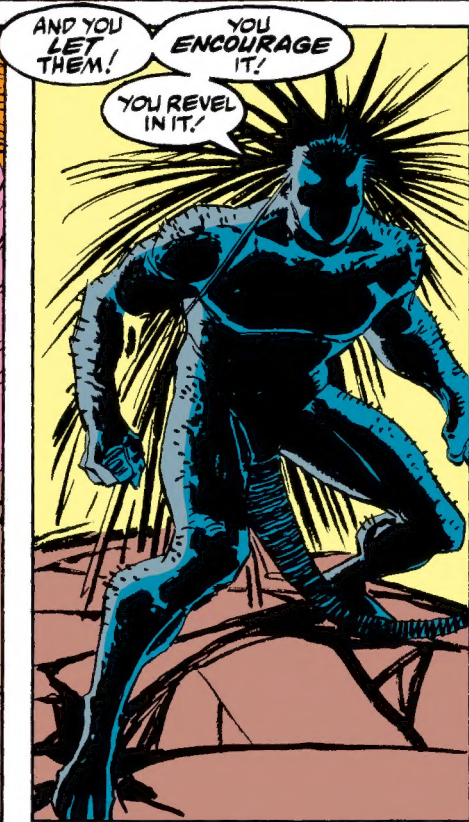
WHY DO YOU  
CLING TO THIS  
**OBSOLETE**  
IMAGE OF  
EVIL.



IT'S NOT WHAT **I** PROJECT, IT'S  
WHAT THE HUMANS **WANT** TO SEE!

THEY SEE GOOD AND  
EVIL AS BLACK AND WHITE,  
THEY **DEMONIZE** ME!

THEY **EXAGGERATE**  
ME INTO WHAT I AM!

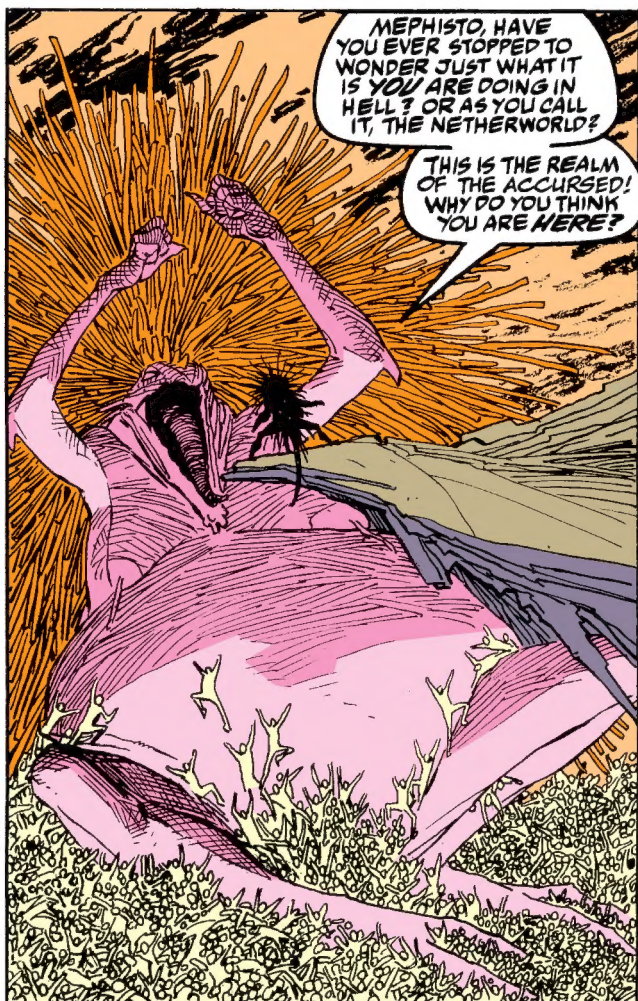


AND YOU  
**LET**  
THEM!

YOU  
**ENCOURAGE**  
IT!

YOU **REVEL**  
IN IT!



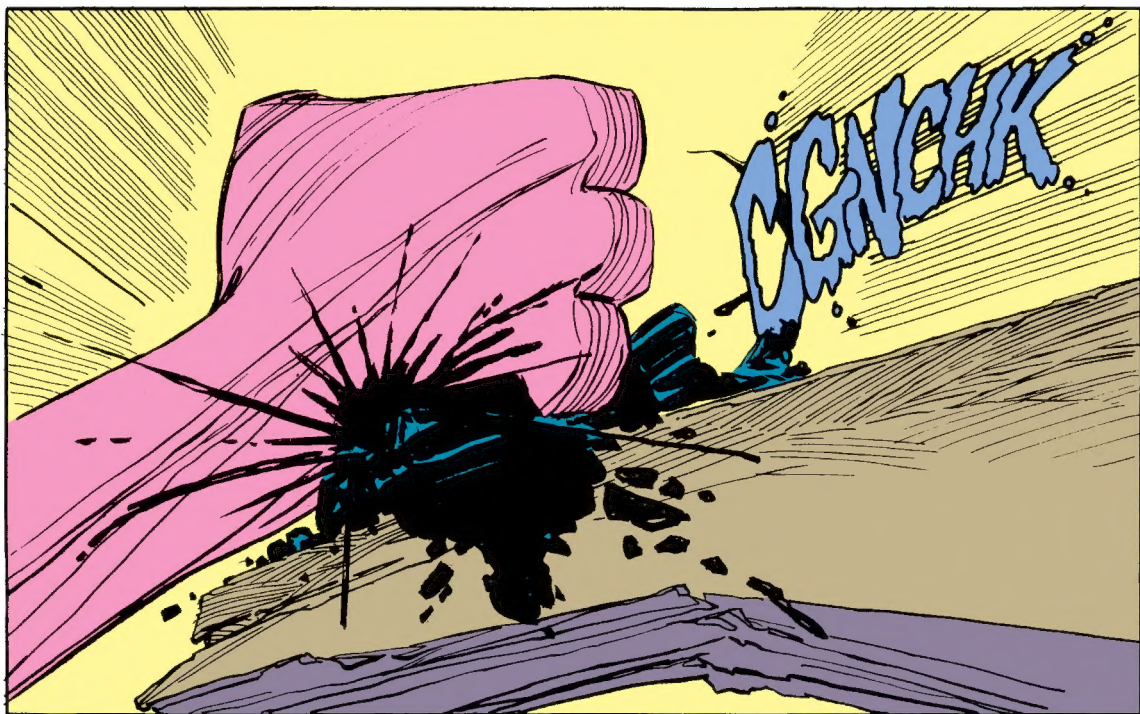


MEPHISTO, HAVE YOU EVER STOPPED TO WONDER JUST WHAT IT IS YOU ARE DOING IN HELL? OR AS YOU CALL IT, THE NETHERWORLD?

THIS IS THE REALM OF THE ACCURSED! WHY DO YOU THINK YOU ARE HERE?

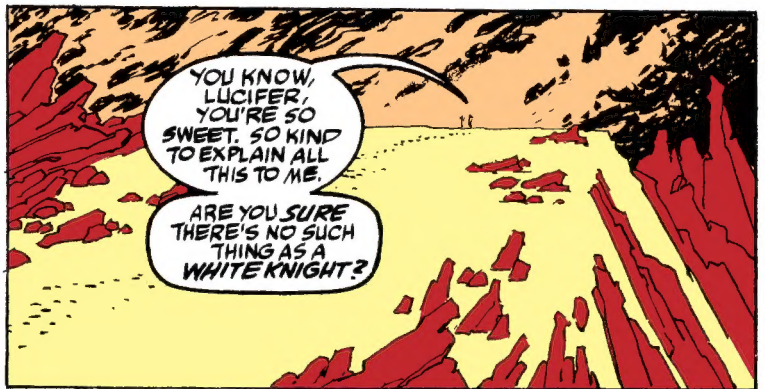
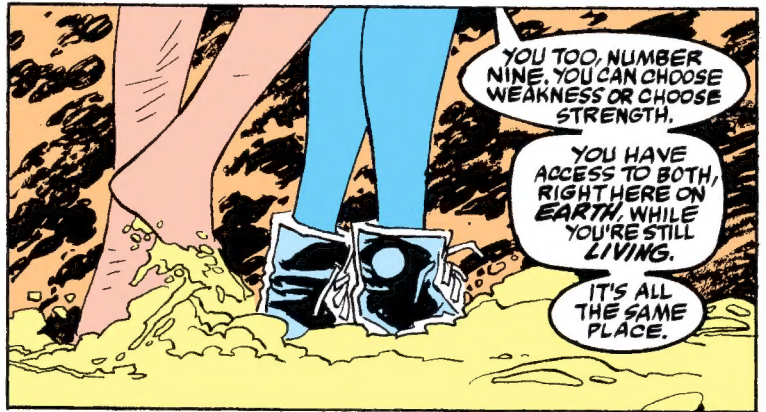
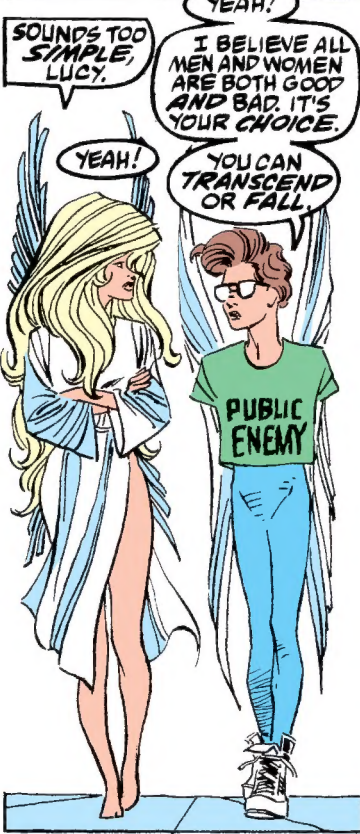
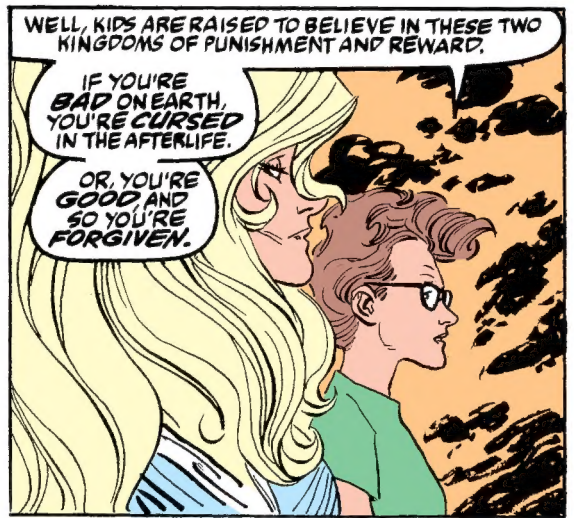
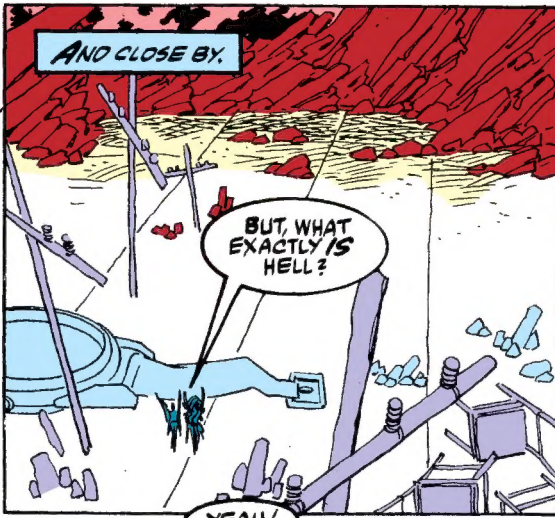


SHUT UP! I WILL HEAR NO MORE LIES!



CRASH





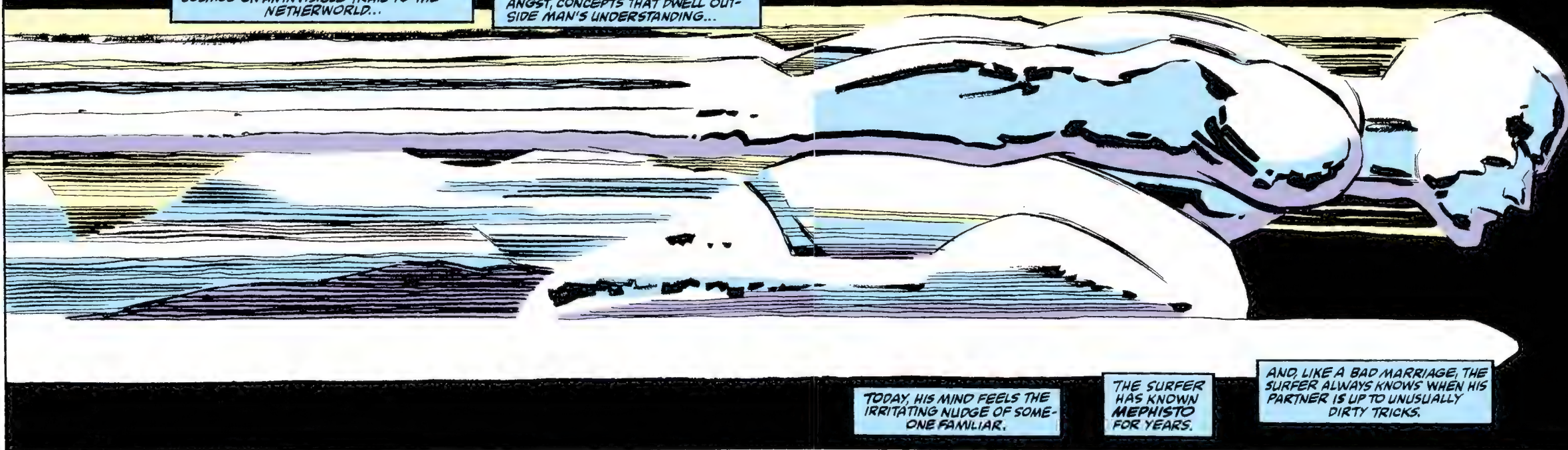


THE SILVER  
SURFER!

BURNING TOWARD THE THIN EDGE OF THE  
COSMOS ON AN INVISIBLE TRAIL TO THE  
NETHERWORLD...

WHAT COULD SUCH A ROAD BE LIKE?  
BEYOND SPACE, BEYOND JOY, AN END-  
OF-THE-WORLD SADNESS BEYOND  
ANGST, CONCEPTS THAT DWELL OUT-  
SIDE MAN'S UNDERSTANDING...

YET THIS UNTOUCHABLE PARADOXICAL REALM IS THE LIQUID  
THE SURFER BREATHES DAY IN AND OUT...



TODAY, HIS MIND FEELS THE  
IRRITATING NUDGE OF SOME-  
ONE FAMILIAR.

THE SURFER  
HAS KNOWN  
MEPHISTO  
FOR YEARS.

AND, LIKE A BAD MARRIAGE, THE  
SURFER ALWAYS KNOWS WHEN HIS  
PARTNER IS UP TO UNUSUALLY  
DIRTY TRICKS.

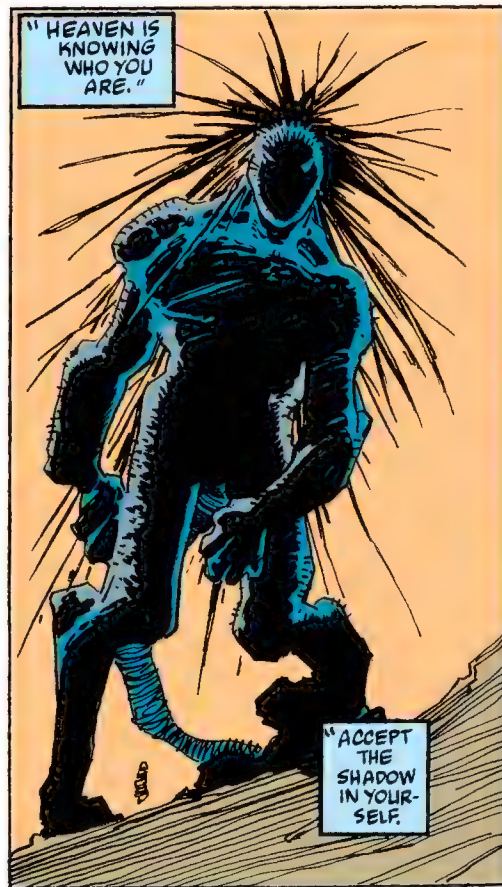
AND IN THAT  
NETHER-REALM...

THE BATTLING DEVILS SEE ONLY FLAME AND  
BRIMSTONE, THE IRREDEEMABLE NO-EXIT  
OF THEIR OWN CHARRED SOULS.



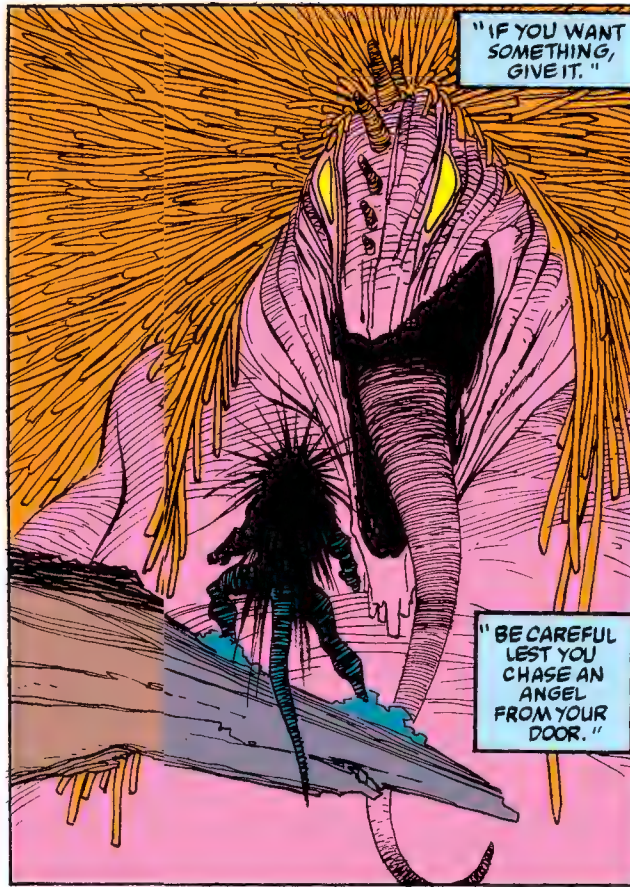
IN THIS SAME  
UNDERWORLD  
HUMANS SAW  
OTHER THINGS,  
LEARNED  
THINGS.

"HEAVEN IS  
KNOWING  
WHO YOU  
ARE."



"ACCEPT  
THE  
SHADOW  
IN YOUR-  
SELF."

"IF YOU WANT  
SOMETHING,  
GIVE IT."

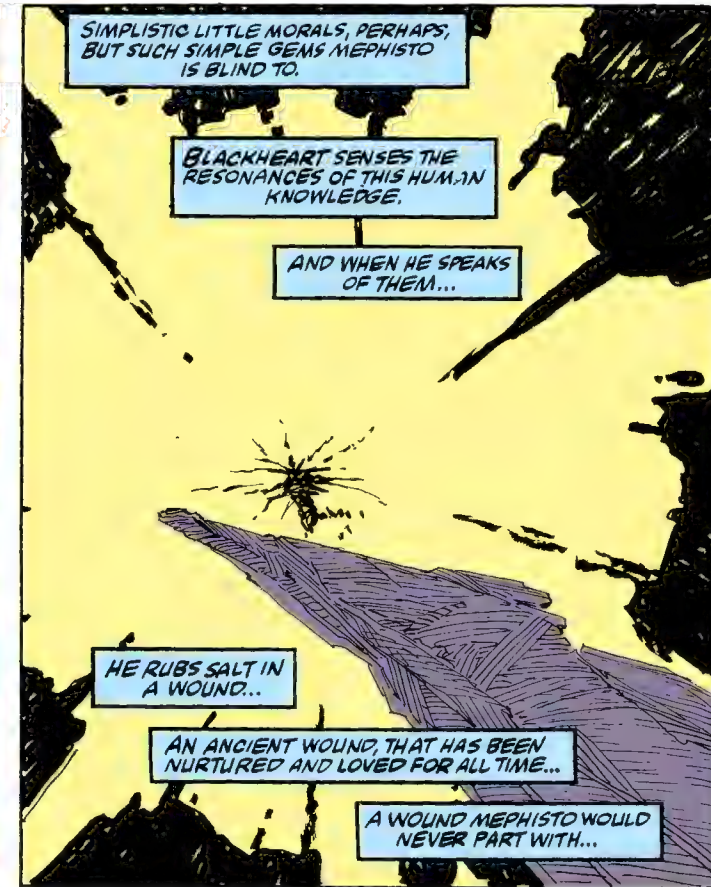


"BE CAREFUL  
LEST YOU  
CHASE AN  
ANGEL  
FROM YOUR  
DOOR."

SIMPLISTIC LITTLE MORALS, PERHAPS,  
BUT SUCH SIMPLE GEMS MEPHISTO  
IS BLIND TO.

BLACKHEART SENSES THE  
RESONANCES OF THIS HUMAN  
KNOWLEDGE.

AND WHEN HE SPEAKS  
OF THEM...

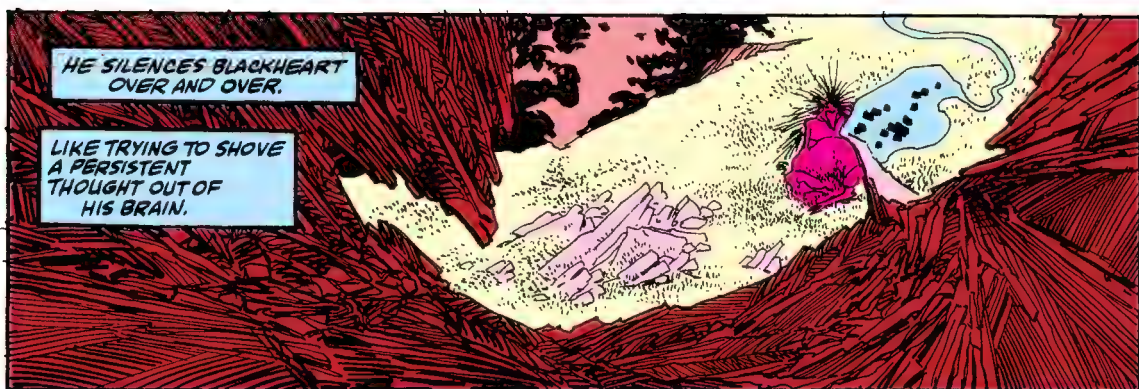


HE RUBS SALT IN  
A WOUND...

AN ANCIENT WOUND, THAT HAS BEEN  
NURTURED AND LOVED FOR ALL TIME...

A WOUND MEPHISTO WOULD  
NEVER PART WITH...





HE SILENCES BLACKHEART  
OVER AND OVER.

LIKE TRYING TO SHOVE  
A PERSISTENT  
THOUGHT OUT OF  
HIS BRAIN.



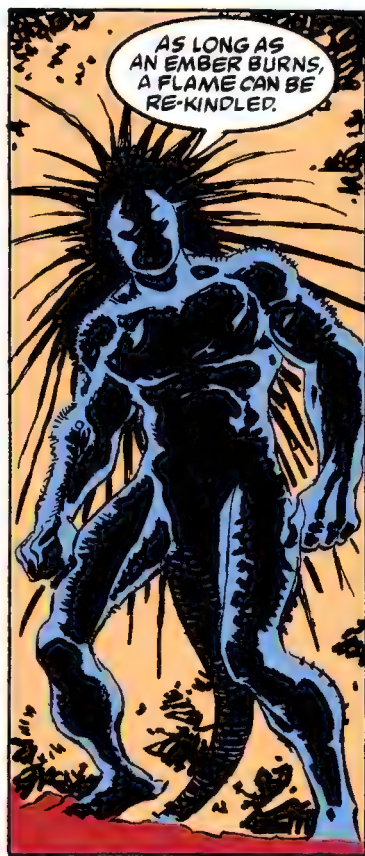
IMPOSSIBLY, IT RE-FORMS  
AGAIN...

MEPHISTO!

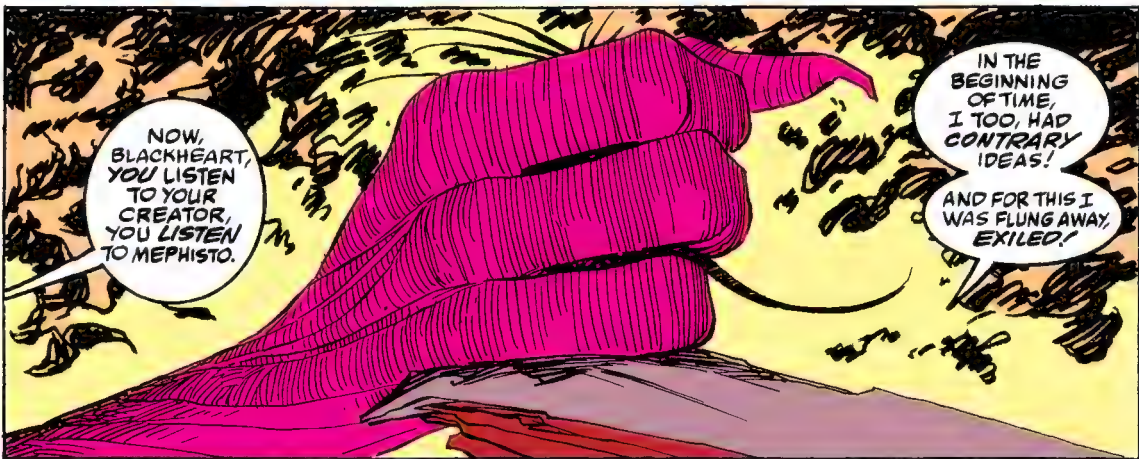


NO MATTER WHAT  
YOU DO, HOW YOU  
CRUSH MAN--  
--THERE IS SOMETHING  
RELENTLESS IN HIS  
SPIRIT.

LIKE COCKROACHES,  
STUBBORN AND DETERMINED,  
EVEN IF YOU DESTROYED THE  
WHOLE WORLD, THEY'D CRAWL  
BACK UP AND SURVIVE.



AS LONG AS  
AN EMBER BURNS,  
A FLAME CAN BE  
RE-KINDLED.



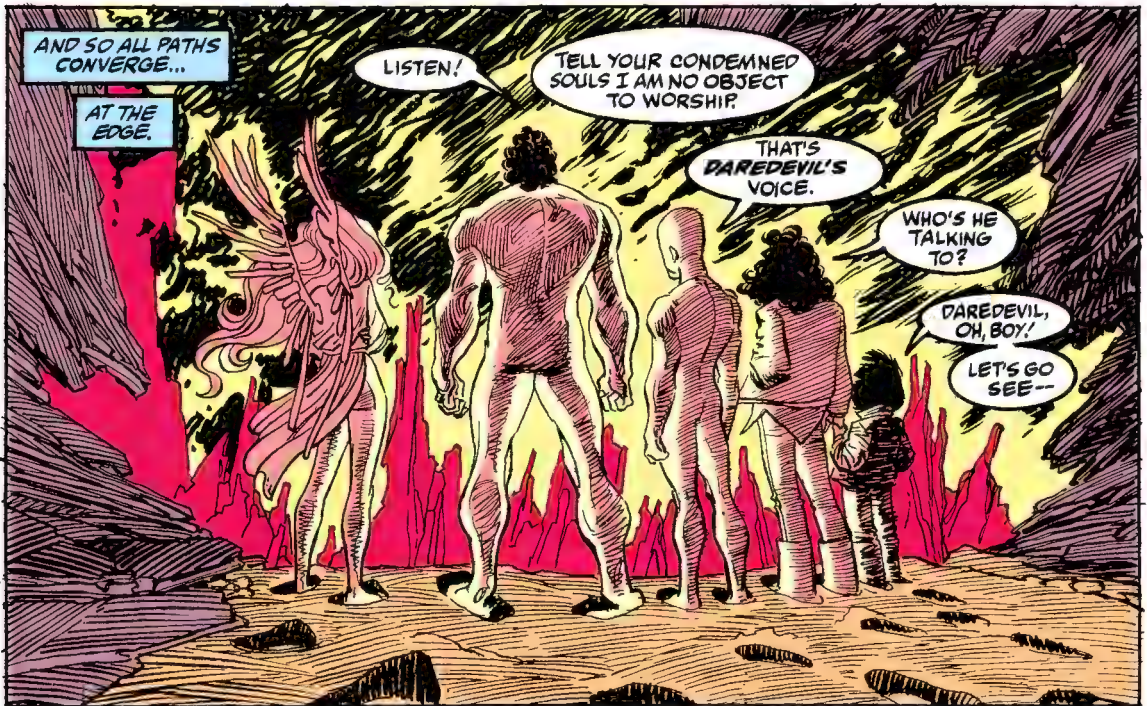
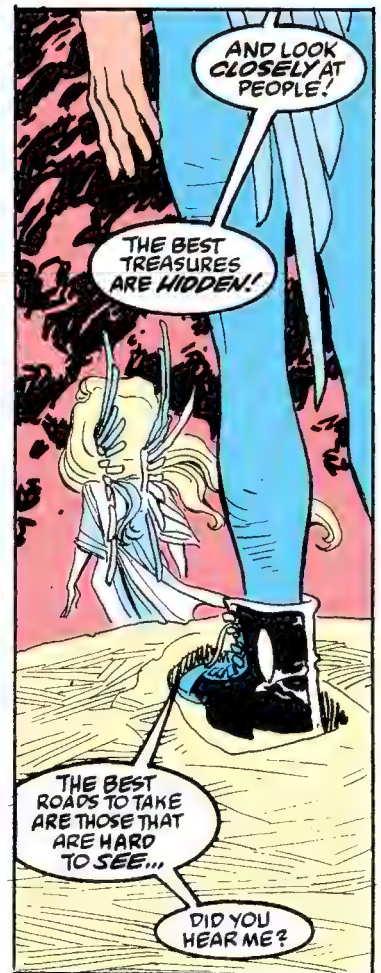
NOW,  
BLACKHEART,  
YOU LISTEN  
TO YOUR  
CREATOR,  
YOU LISTEN  
TO MEPHISTO.

IN THE  
BEGINNING  
OF TIME,  
I TOO, HAD  
CONTRARY  
IDEAS!  
AND FOR THIS I  
WAS FLUNG AWAY,  
EXILED!

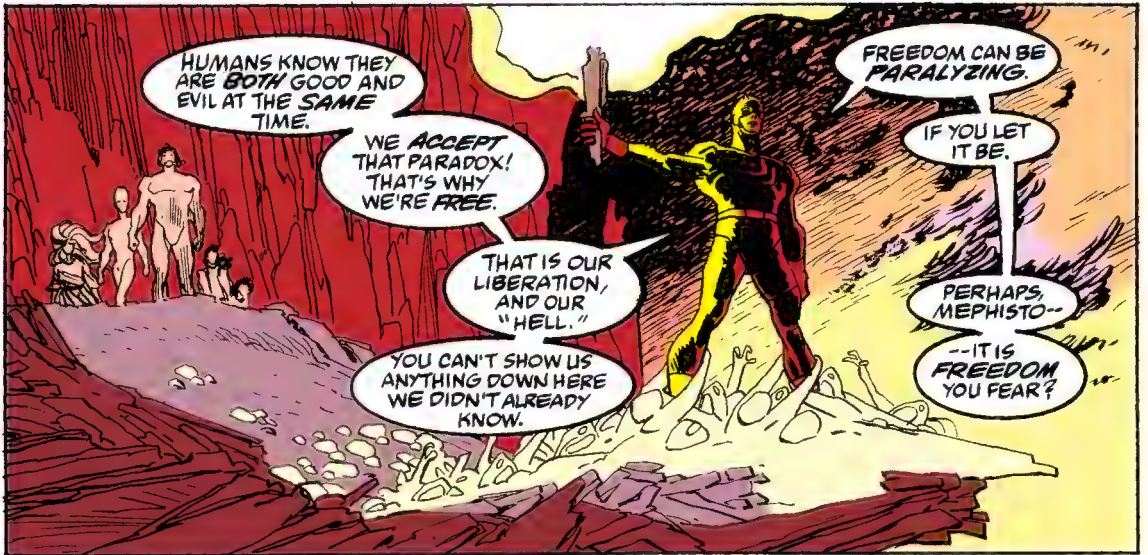
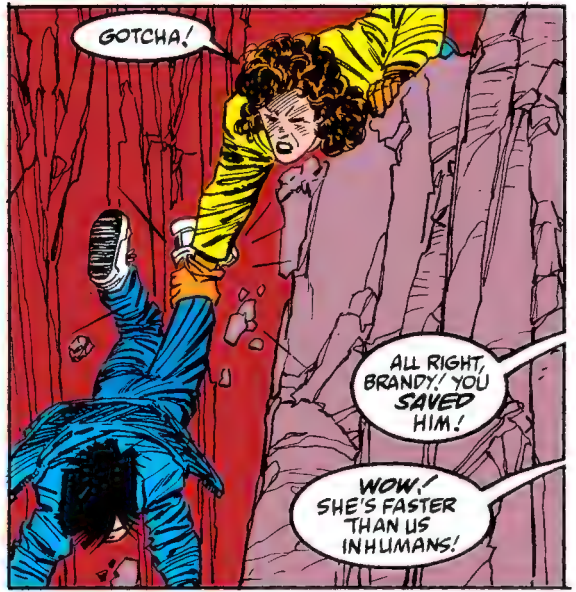




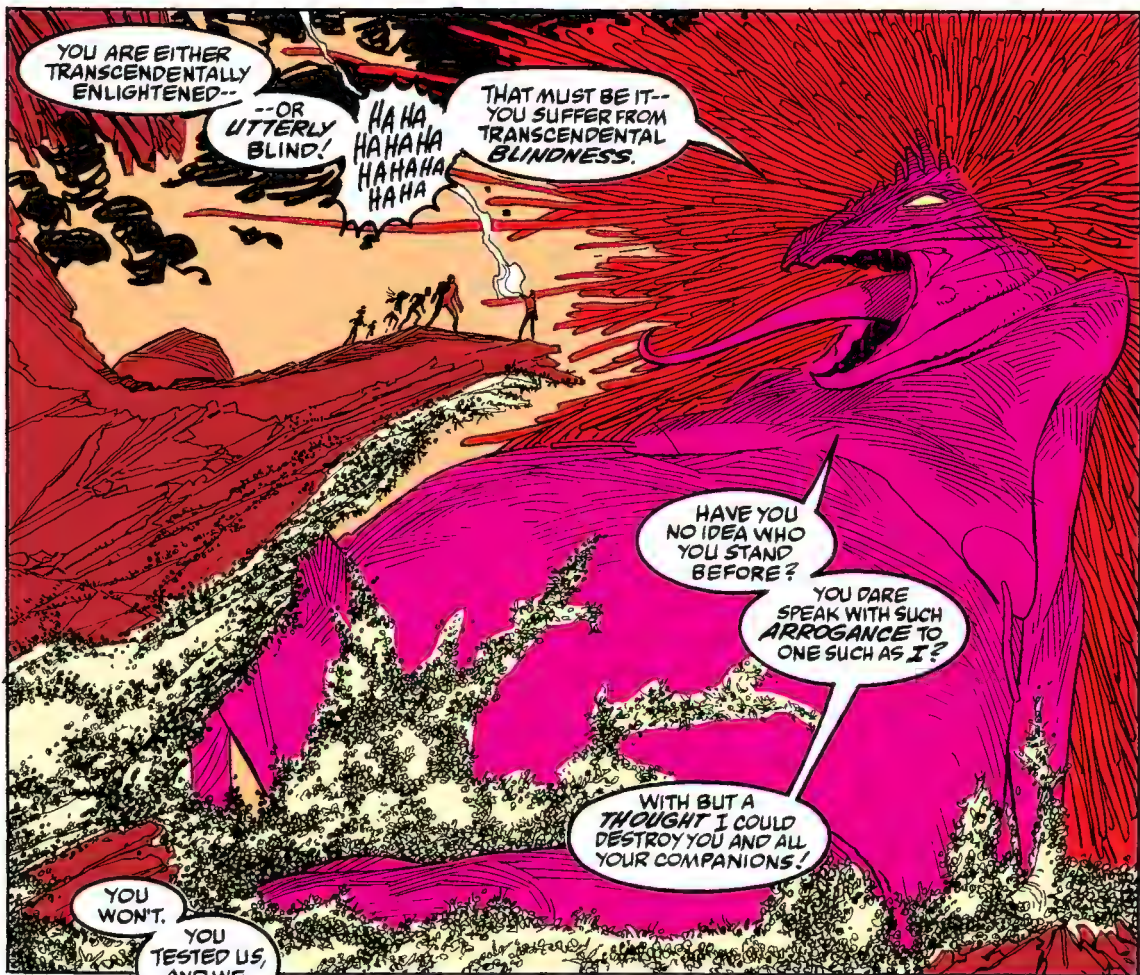












YOU ARE EITHER  
TRANSCENDENTALLY  
ENLIGHTENED--

--OR  
UTTERLY  
BLIND!

HA HA  
HAHAHA  
HAHAHA  
HAHA

THAT MUST BE IT--  
YOU SUFFER FROM  
TRANSCENDENTAL  
BLINDNESS.

HAVE YOU  
NO IDEA WHO  
YOU STAND  
BEFORE?

YOU DARE  
SPEAK WITH SUCH  
ARROGANCE TO  
ONE SUCH AS I?

WITH BUT A  
THOUGHT I COULD  
DESTROY YOU AND ALL  
YOUR COMPANIONS!

YOU  
WON'T.

YOU  
TESTED US,  
AND WE  
WON.

WE WON'T  
FIGHT YOU.

WE'RE SIMPLY  
WALKING  
AWAY.

TURNING THE  
OTHER CHEEK,  
MEPHISTO.

YOU'VE  
HEARD OF  
THAT?

YOU ARE  
UNBEARABLY  
CONFIDENT--

--IN YOUR  
FALSE  
NOBILITY.

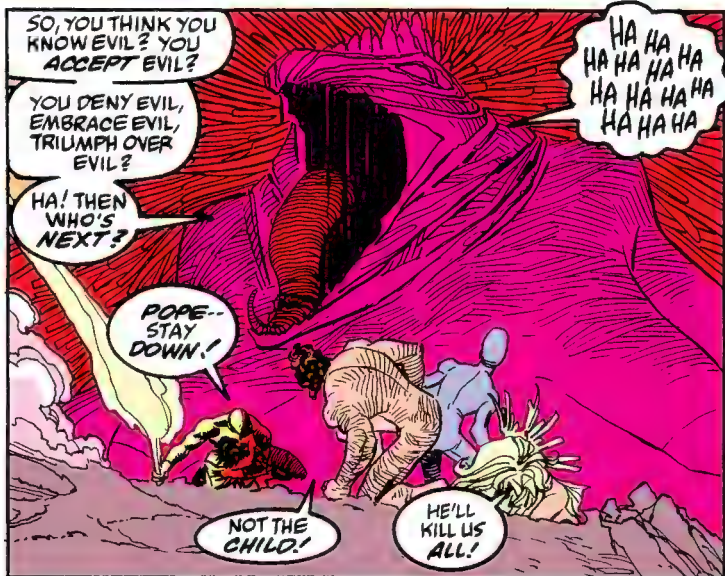
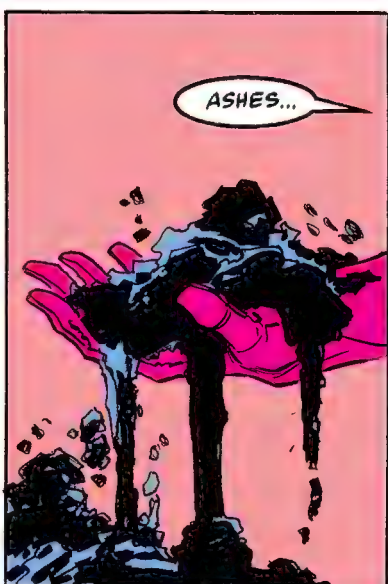
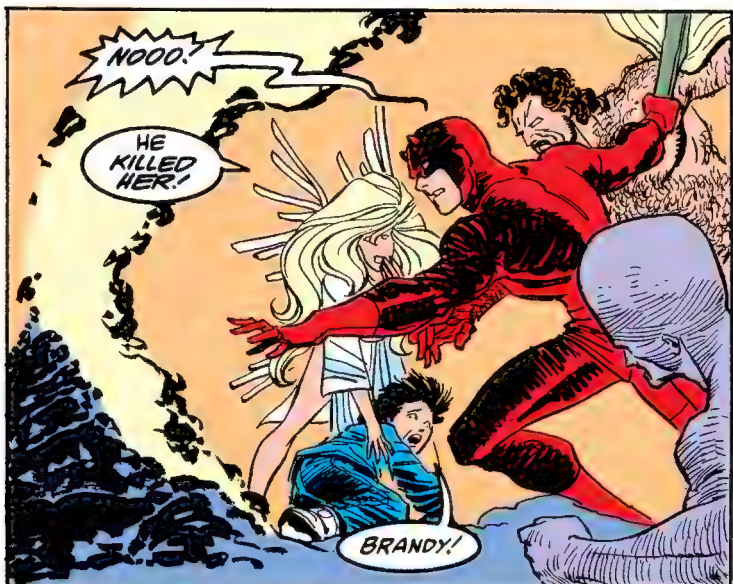
SO SELF-  
RIGHTEOUS.

SO  
SMUG.

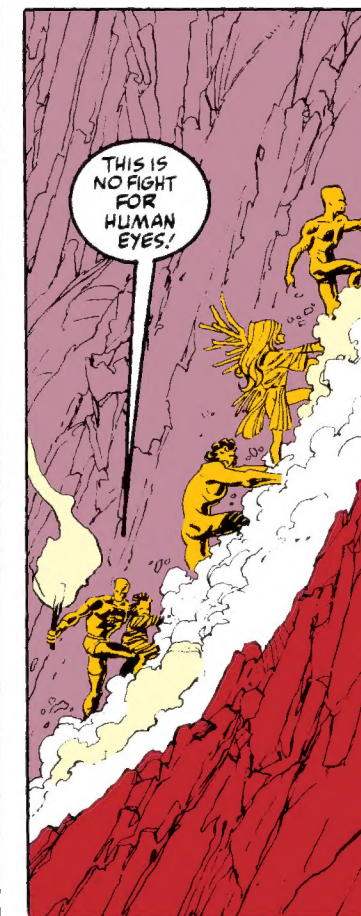
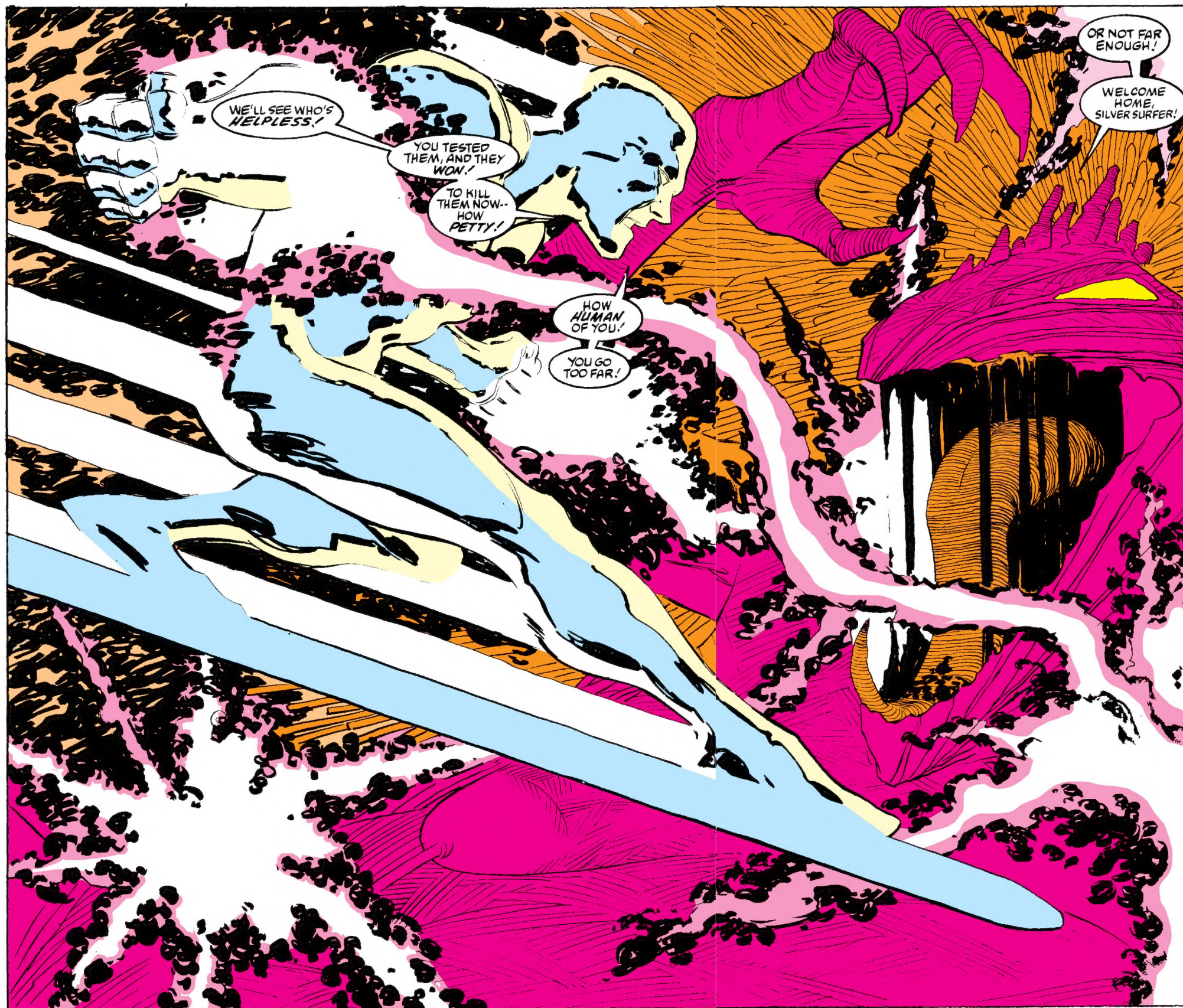
HOW SHALL I  
SHOW YOU HOW  
HELPLESS YOU  
ARE?



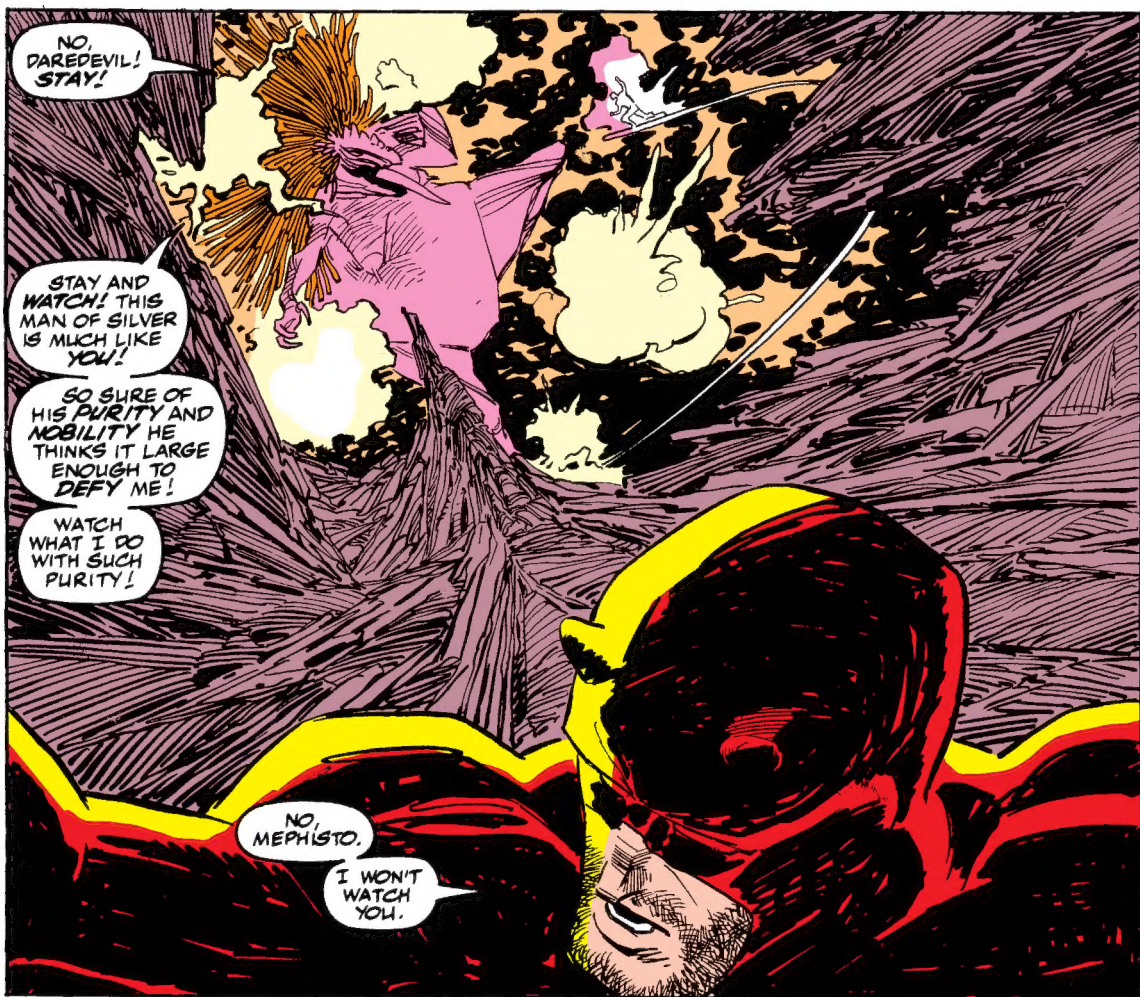












NO, DAREDEVIL!  
STAY!

STAY AND  
WATCH! THIS  
MAN OF SILVER  
IS MUCH LIKE  
YOU!

SO SURE OF  
HIS PURITY AND  
NOBILITY HE  
THINKS IT LARGE  
ENOUGH TO  
DEFY ME!

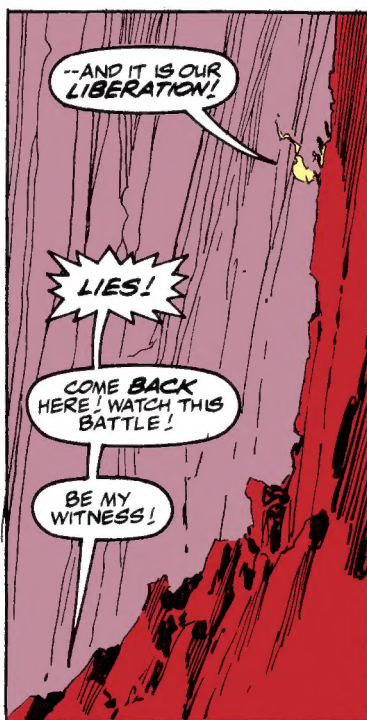
WATCH  
WHAT I DO  
WITH SUCH  
PURITY!

NO, MEPHISTO.

I WON'T  
WATCH  
YOU.



BUT THERE IS  
ANOTHER WATCHING  
YOU-- AND HE FOR-  
GIVES YOU, AND I  
FORGIVE YOU, WE  
ALL DO FOR ALL  
TIME--

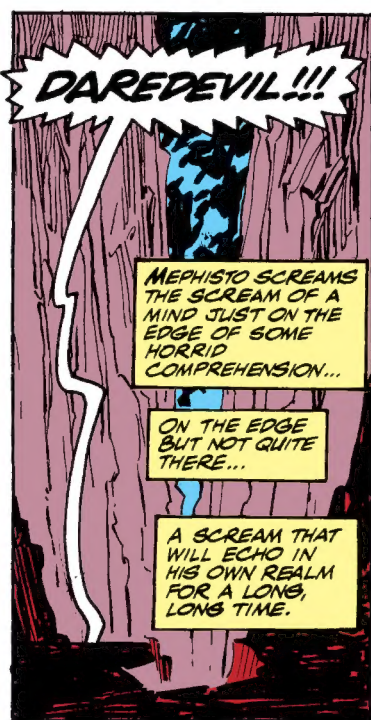


--AND IT IS OUR  
LIBERATION!

LIES!

COME BACK  
HERE! WATCH THIS  
BATTLE!

BE MY  
WITNESS!



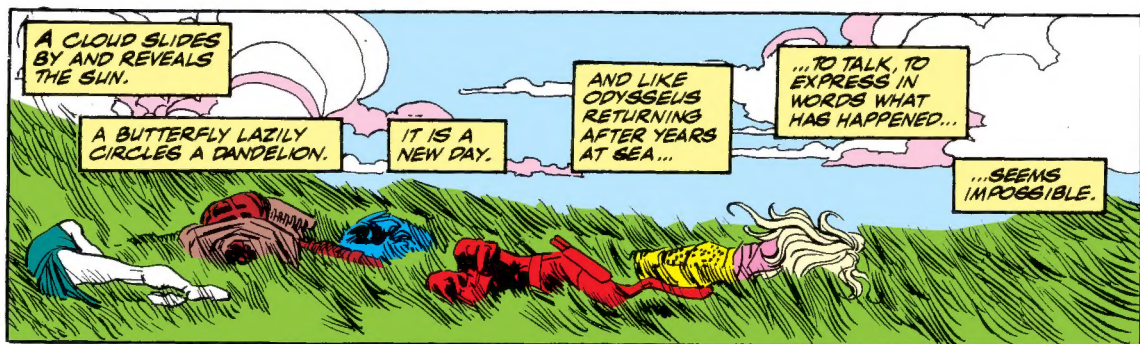
**DAREDEVIL!!!**

MEPHISTO SCREAMS  
THE SCREAM OF A  
MIND JUST ON THE  
EDGE OF SOME  
HORRID  
COMPREHENSION...

ON THE EDGE  
BUT NOT QUITE  
THERE...

A SCREAM THAT  
WILL ECHO IN  
HIS OWN REALM  
FOR A LONG,  
LONG TIME.





A CLOUD SLIDES BY AND REVEALS THE SUN.

A BUTTERFLY LAZILY CIRCLES A DANDELION.

IT IS A NEW DAY.

AND LIKE ODYSSEUS RETURNING AFTER YEARS AT SEA...

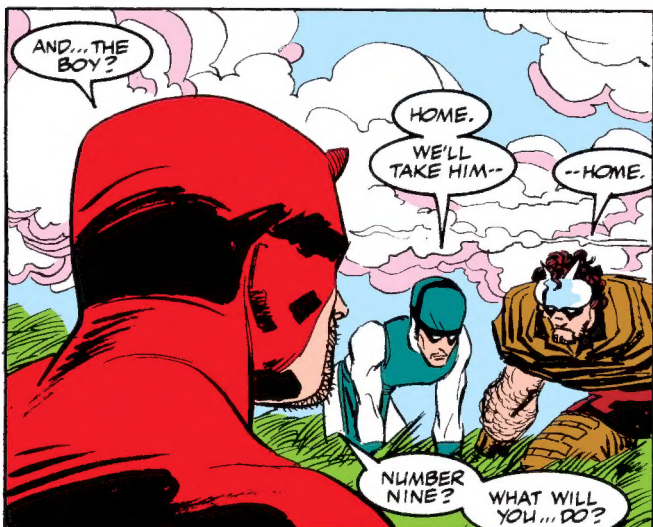
...TO TALK, TO EXPRESS IN WORDS WHAT HAS HAPPENED...

...SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE.



UHM...

IS EVERYONE--?



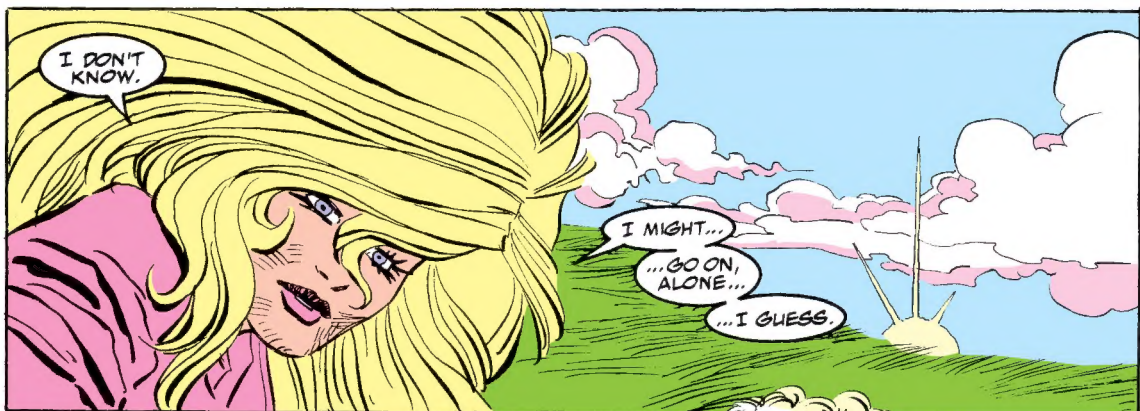
AND...THE BOY?

HOME. WE'LL TAKE HIM--

--HOME.

NUMBER NINE?

WHAT WILL YOU... DO?

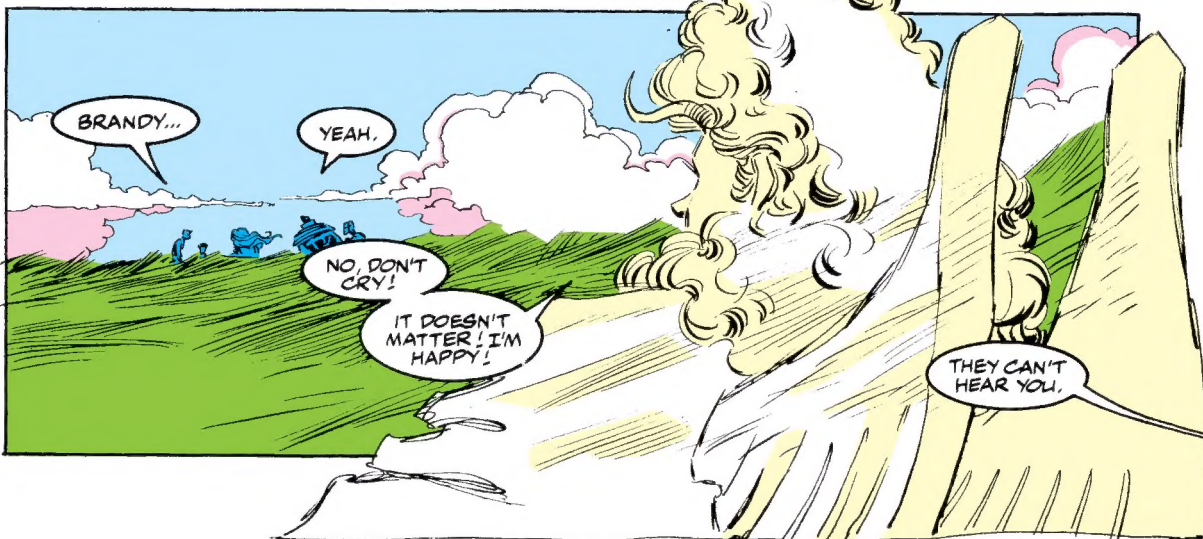


I DON'T KNOW.

I MIGHT...

...GO ON, ALONE...

...I GUESS.



BRANDY...

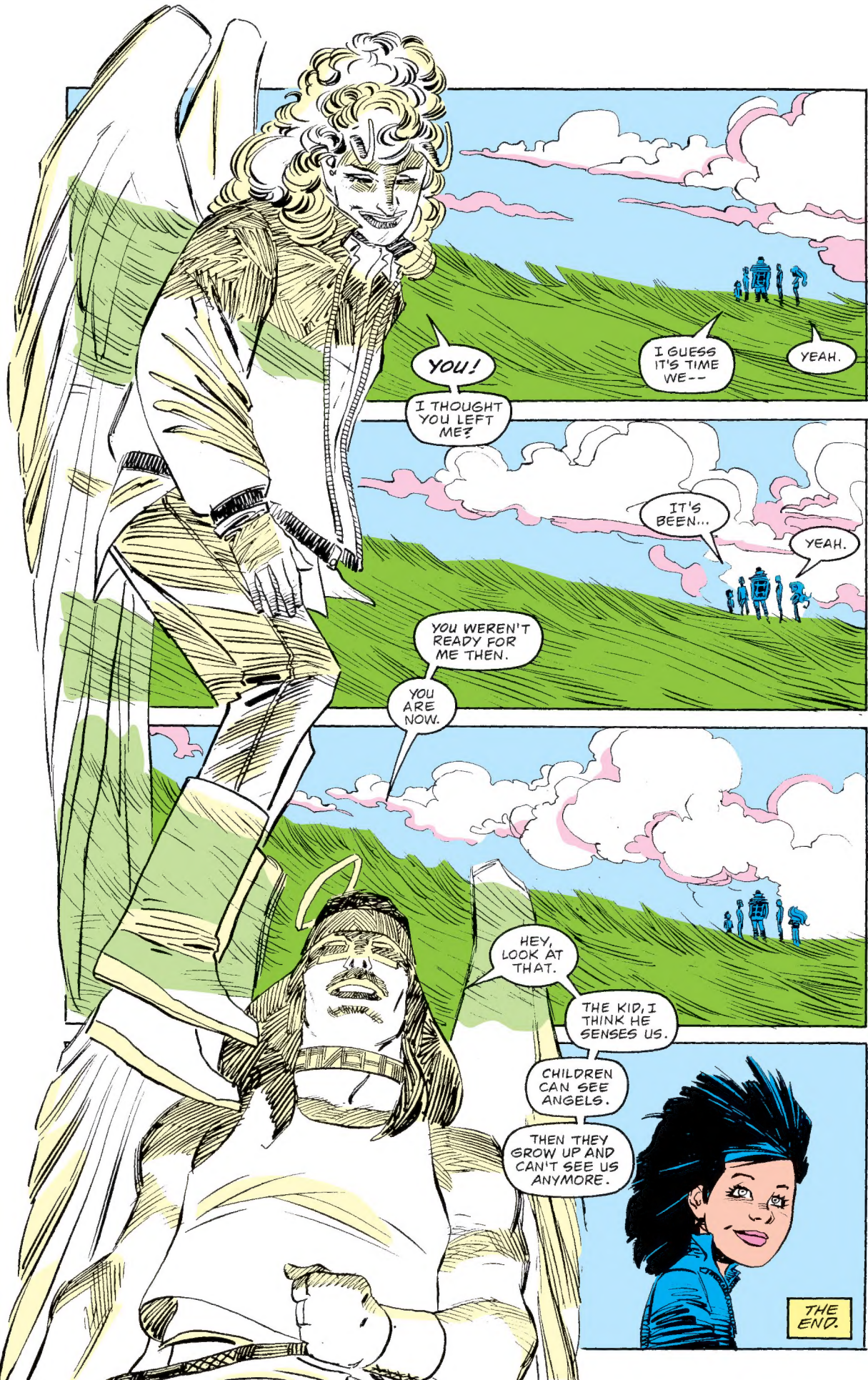
YEAH.

NO, DON'T CRY!

IT DOESN'T MATTER! I'M HAPPY!

THEY CAN'T HEAR YOU.





YOU!

I THOUGHT  
YOU LEFT  
ME?

I GUESS  
IT'S TIME  
WE--

YEAH.

IT'S  
BEEN...

YEAH.

YOU WEREN'T  
READY FOR  
ME THEN.

YOU  
ARE  
NOW.

HEY,  
LOOK AT  
THAT.

THE KID, I  
THINK HE  
SENSES US.

CHILDREN  
CAN SEE  
ANGELS.

THEN THEY  
GROW UP AND  
CAN'T SEE US  
ANYMORE.

THE  
END.